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did not know the real cause of her distemper. Her wounded spirit preyed on her bodily health, and she sunk beneath her mental agonies.—Yet her latter end was peace; she died full of faith in her Saviour: and there was a prayer on her lips for the one who had wrecked her hopes. He did not escape unpunished. The friends of the lady whom he was to have married, discovered his true character before it was too late, and saved her from a union that must have been miserable. I have been told that he is now like the ghost of his former self; and, haunted by remorse for his conduct to Ellen, he plunges into every species of dissipation, in the vain hope of quelling the stings of conscience. He is wretched, and deservedly so. He says, that had Ellen cursed him, he could have borne it; but, the blessings and forgiveness dictated for him with her dying breath, torture him to madness.

Oh, Love, no habitant of earth thou art—
 An unseen seraph we believe in thee;
 A faith, whose martyrs are the broken heart.
 But never yet hath seen, nor ere shall see
 The naked eye thy form as it should be.
 The mind hath made thee, as it peopled heaven,
 Even with its own desiring phantasy;
 And to a thought, such shape and image given,
 As haunts the unquench'd soul, parched, wearied, wrung, and riven.
 BYRON.

PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS.

No. III.

SKETCH OF THEIR HISTORY, FROM 1660 to 1688.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 157.)

PUBLICATIONS of all kinds, especially those of a periodical or fugitive nature, are commonly faithful mirrors of the times in which they appear. We have already seen how accurately they reflected the image of the period formerly surveyed—from the reign of Elizabeth to the Restoration in 1660. Their number, their variety, and their extravagance, all indicated an age of extraordinary events, and of unnatural excitement. After the Restoration, the scene instantly changed; and the swarms of such publications that filled every corner of the land, disappeared as at the touch of enchantment. At first, scarcely more than one newspaper was conducted at the same time: and for nearly twenty years, the number seldom exceeded two or three. There were also but few pamphlets on passing events, and these not distinguished by much spirit.—This remarkable change in periodical literature was connected in various ways with a revolution in the spirit of the times, which

it is impossible not to contemplate without disappointment and regret. The calm which followed the storms of the preceding period, was rather the languor of exhausted nature, unfavourable to the growth of any virtues, and to the culture of the useful or refined arts. The period we are now surveying, indeed, was one of the most disgraceful in English history. The conduct of the king was marked with heartless ingratitude to the chief agents in his restoration, the violation of solemn engagements, and the persecution of many of his subjects on account of religion. He was treacherous to his natural allies the Dutch, and became a needy and cringing pensioner of the French court. The party in power likewise indulged in rancorous revenge against others; and combined the refinement and wantonness of cruelty, with all the meanness of ostentatious triumph. Nor were these crimes compensated by the prevalence of private virtue. The profligacy of manners which pervaded the nation is proverbial, and it had a benumbing influence on literature. Even the professed panegyrist of Charles, acknowledges that "the immeasurable licentiousness indulged, or rather applauded, at court, retarded the progress of polite literature, and was destructive to the refined arts."* It should be observed too, that almost all the great men who lived during this reign, had their characters and habits formed amid the stricter manners of the former period, and were but little indebted to the patronage of Charles. The same historian confesses that if he animated them at all, it was not by his bounty: for his profligacy "left him neither money nor attention to literary merit." In such circumstances, we cannot be surprised to find the list of eminent writings on general subjects as meagre as that of periodicals.

But the sudden reduction of the number of such works, may be traced to various restrictions on the Press, by which this period was distinguished; and which were particularly directed against periodicals. Immediately after the Restoration, the office of Licensor of the Press was revived, and continued by Royal Proclamation, till it was established by Act of Parliament. It is curious to find, so early as September, 1660, a warrant under the sign manual, granted to George Wharton, for perusing and licensing Almanacks; a species of publication of very early origin. In 1662, these exclusive privileges were confirmed and extended by an Act of Parliament, "for preventing seditious, treasonable, and unlicensed books and pamphlets, and for regulating printing, and printing-presses." By this act, different superintendants were appointed for the different classes of publications, among whom were the Judges, some officers of State, and the Archbishop

* Hume's History, c. 7.

of Canterbury. A general surveyor of the Imprimery and Printing Presses, was also appointed ; who had "the sole licensing of all books," and what is more intimately connected with the history of Periodicals, "all the sole privilege of writing, printing, and publishing, all narratives, advertisements, mercuries, intelligencers, diurnals, and other books of public intelligence ; and printing all ballads, plays, maps, charts, portraitures, and pictures, not previously printed ; and all briefs for collections, play bills, creditors' bills, and tickets, in England and Wales ; with power to search for and seize unlicensed and treasonable, schismatical and scandalous books and papers."

Though the press had been subjected to various restraints in former times, those now introduced were marked with some peculiarities, and were enforced with the greatest rigour. Such restraints were common in all countries during the dark ages, and continued for some time, even after more liberal principles had been introduced. England imitated the example of the continental nations ; but for a long time after the Reformation, the restraints imposed proceeded rather from the exercise of the Royal prerogative, and the edicts of arbitrary courts, than from regular laws. The most of them arose in the Star-chamber, and were removed with that infamous tribunal. It was not till the time of Charles I. that a Licensor of the press was regularly appointed. This is regarded as one of the measures of Archbishop Laud, and contributed greatly to augment the public discontents. But by a strange inconsistency, the Parliamentary party, who had been most aggrieved by it, adopted similar measures after they obtained the ascendancy. This accounts for a circumstance already mentioned in the history of Periodicals, that the Royalists during the civil war, found great difficulty in getting their papers printed and circulated : for which purpose they had recourse to various contrivances, and were frequently obliged to hand them about in manuscript. Yet it is but justice to observe, that such restraints on the press were suspended for a considerable time under Cromwell. Though the Parliament passed a law for "regulating printing," it was instantly opposed in 1644, by Milton's well-known work in behalf of the liberty of unlicensed printing ; which had the desired effect of at least suspending its operation. This eloquent speech seems to have so deeply affected the mind of the Licensor, (Mabbot) that he applied to Parliament, to be discharged from his employment, on account of some conscientious scruples concerning its lawfulness and propriety. His request was granted ; and during Cromwell's administration, the press enjoyed considerable freedom. The office we

have seen was speedily revived under Charles II. and continued till after the Revolution ; when it was abolished by Act of Parliament, and the liberty of the press put on the same footing on which it has since remained.

The effects of such measures in suppressing, or mutilating books, were sometimes curious, and have often been noticed in literary history. One remarkable instance of this kind, occurs in the period before us. In 1667, when *Paradise Lost* was presented for license, the noble simile in the first book, in which Satan is compared to the sun under an eclipse, was objected to, as containing treasonable allusions ; and on this account the poem had nearly been suppressed. The sagacious Judge, " whose quick nostril so readily distinguished the scent of treason," deserves to be generally known : Thomas Tomkyns, one of the Chaplains of Archbishop Sheldon, under whose cognizance all kinds of poetry were placed.

These restrictive laws were applied in a manner still more singular, and more closely connected with the history of Periodicals. They led to the suppression or regulation of Coffee-houses, as places of news. The introduction of Tea and Coffee into Europe, particularly into England, forms a striking epoch in the history of manners. Tea was scarcely known in England before 1666, when it was regarded only as a curiosity, nor did it become common till after the Revolution. Coffee was introduced about the same time, but made its way more speedily into general use. It is curious indeed, to find how much this simple and agreeable beverage was opposed, both by medical men, who imputed to it the most deteriorating qualities ; and by the censors of general manners, who regarded it as destructive of all elegance and manliness. They chiefly despised it as a miserable substitute for wine, which it threatened to supercede. It accordingly drew forth many satires, some of which have been preserved as curious pictures of the times. One of these, " a Cup of Coffee," so early as 1663, after blaming it for making " men and Christians to turn Turks," presents the following picture of the interior of a Coffee-house :—

Should any of your grandsires' ghosts appear
In your wax-candle circles, and but hear
The name of coffee so much call'd upon,
Then see it drank like scalding Phlegmethon ;
Would they not startle, think ye, all agreed
'Twas conjuration both in word and deed ;
Or Catiline's conspirators, as they stood
Sealing their oaths in draughts of blackest blood ?
The merriest ghosts of all your sires would say,
Your wine 's much worse since his last yesterday.
He'd wonder how the club had given a hop
O'er tavern-bars into a farrier's shop,
Where he'd suppose, both by the smoak and stench,
Each man a horse, and each horse at his drench.

Sure you're no poets, nor their friends, for now,
Should Jonson's strenuous spirit, or the rare
Beaumont and Fletcher's in your rounds appear,
They would not find the air perfumed with one
Castalian drop, nor dew of Helicon.
When they but men would speak as the Gods do,
They drank pure nectar as the Gods drink too;
Sublim'd with rich Canary—say shall then,
These less than coffee's self, these coffee-men,
These sons of nothing, that can hardly make
Their broth, for laughing how the jest does take—
Yet grin, and give ye for the vine's pure blood,
A loathsome potion not yet understood,
Syrup of soot, or essence of old shoes,
Dash't with Diurnals and the books of news.

These lines refer to a very curious circumstance in the history of this beverage; that in all countries, even in Asia, the places where it was chiefly sold were the principal resort both for business, and for gossiping and news. Coffee-houses of this description soon became common in England, and were long intimately connected with the history of our Periodical Literature. At first they were objects both of extravagant censure and praise. On the one hand they were reprobated as scenes of confusion, "like Noah's Ark, where the clean and the unclean were huddled together,"—and, on the other, from the variety of information obtained in them, they were denominated "Penny Universities." At last they attracted the notice of a jealous Government; and, in 1675, after consultation with the Judges, a Royal Proclamation was issued, commanding them all to be shut up for some time, as calculated "to nourish sedition, spread lies, and scandalise great men." But so general was the discontent which this order produced, that numerous petitions were presented against it; and permission was at last obtained to open houses for selling coffee, on the condition (which it would have been difficult to fulfil,) that "their masters should prevent all scandalous papers, books, and libels, from being read in them; and hinder every person from spreading scandalous reports against Government."—These measures exhibit curious pictures of the spirit of the times; and account for the check which periodical writing received at the era under consideration.

The first surveyor of the press after the Restoration, was Sir Roger L'Estrange, who also commenced in 1663 the only newspapers which were circulated for a few years—the *Intelligencer* and the *News*. His life presents much of the characteristic vicissitude and turbulence of the times. He was born in 1616, and descended of an ancient and respectable family in Norfolk. He received a liberal education, probably at Cambridge; and, being like his father, a zealous Royalist, he united his fortunes to those of Charles I.—whom he attended on various expeditions. His loyalty exposed him to

many hardships. In 1644 he was taken prisoner and condemned to death—but, though the day of his execution was fixed, he obtained a reprieve; and, after being kept in prison nearly six years, at last made his escape to the Continent. There he remained till the Act of Indemnity was passed in 1653, at the commencement of Cromwell's protectorate, when he, with many other exiles, returned; and continued in privacy till the Restoration. That event he very zealously promoted, both by his writings and intrigues. As his services to the Royal cause entitled him to some remuneration, he was made Licensor of the Press, for which his zeal and general habits seemed fully to qualify him. He continued during life to be a violent party writer on all the political, and many of the theological questions of the day. He left a few works of more general interest, though now but little used; such as translations of Cicero's Offices, Seneca's Morals, and Quevedo's Visions, from the Spanish. He also collected, or rather imitated Esop's Fables, with morals and reflexions; though with a coarseness of manner extremely remote from the elegant simplicity of the original. His writings on controversial and fugitive subjects are very numerous, and are in a style of great acrimony, and frequently of low vulgarity, which was very common at that turbulent period. He accordingly provoked much opposition and severe censure, often conveyed with equal asperity and coarseness. It appears that, amid this political turbulence, he had leisure to cultivate music, in which he became so distinguished that his house was the resort of the dilettanti of the time. Even this circumstance became a ground of reproach: for we find some of the tracts, published in answer to him, designating him Roger the Fiddler. He was knighted after the Revolution; and died in 1704.

Under the restrictive measures already mentioned, and the censorship of L'Estrange, all the papers in circulation about the time of the Restoration disappeared; and in August, 1663, he issued the first number of "The Intelligencer; published for the satisfaction and information of the people, with Privilege." The Prospectus exhibits such a singular specimen of his arrogance, and an indication of the tameness of spirit which then began to creep upon the nation, that a few passages deserve to be quoted.

First, as to the point of printed intelligence, I do declare myself, that, supposing the press in order, the people in their right wits, and news or no news to be the question, a public Mercury should never have my vote; because I think it makes the multitude too familiar with the actions and counsels of their superiors, too pragmatical and censorious, and gives them, not only an itch, but a kind of colourable

right and license to be meddling with the Government. All which does not yet hinder, but that in this juncture a paper of that quality may be both safe and expedient; truly, if I should say necessary, perhaps the case would bear it; for certainly there is not any thing which at this instant more imports his Majesty's service and the public, than to redeem the vulgar from their former mistakes and delusions, and to preserve them from the like for the time to come: to both which purposes the prudent management of a *Gazette* may contribute in a very high degree: for, besides that it is every body's money, and, in truth, a good part of most men's study and business, it is none of the worst ways of address to the genius and humour of the common people; whose affections are much more capable of being tuned and wrought upon by convenient hints and touches, in the shape and air of a pamphlet, than by the strongest reasons and best notions imaginable, under any other and more sober form whatsoever. To which advantages of being popular and grateful, must be added, as none of the least, that it is likewise seasonable and worth the while were there no other use of it than only to detect and disappoint the malice of those scandalous and false reports, which are daily contrived and bruited against the government. So that, upon the main, I perceive the thing requisite, and (for ought I can see yet) once a week may do the business, for I intend to utter my news by weight, and not by measure.—The way as to the vent, that has been found most beneficial to the master of the book, has been to cry and expose it about the streets, by mercuries and hawkers; but whether that way be so advisable in some other respects, may be a question: for, under countenance of that employment, is carried on the private trade of treasonable and seditious libels; nor, effectually, has any thing considerable been dispersed, against either Church or State, without the aid and privacy of this sort of people. Wherefore, without ample assurance and security against the inconvenience, I shall adventure to steer another course.

A word now to the second branch of my care and duty; that is, the survey and inspection of the press. To prevent mischief (as far as in me lies), and for their encouragement that shall discover it, take these advertisements of encouragement to the discovery of unlawful printing:—If any person can give notice, and make proof, of any printing press erected and being in any private place, hole, or corner, contrary to the tenor of the late Act of Parliament for the regulating of printing and printing presses; let him repair with such notice, and make proof thereof, to the surveyor of the press, at his office at the Gun in Ivy-lane, and he shall have forty shillings for his pains, with what assurance of secrecy himself shall desire, &c.

The *Intelligencer* thus commenced, was published every Monday, and another paper of the same kind, the *News*, every Thursday, and continued till 1666. At that time, the Court began to publish a more official paper, which has been continued with considerable regularity to the present day—the *Gazette*. The first No. appeared in November, 1665, at Oxford, where

the King then resided, on account of the plague which desolated London, and was called the Oxford Gazette. But on the removal of the Court to London, in February next year, when the plague had subsided, it assumed the name, which it has since retained, the London Gazette, published every Monday; and was for several years the only regular newspaper in England. As the Gazette contained official papers, it was translated into French, as the best method of transmitting important intelligence to the continent. Some occurrences connected with this translation show the solicitude on the part of the English Court to please that of France. In 1678, when the country was agitated by the measures connected with the Popish Plot, the King was induced, by popular clamour, to issue a proclamation, "commanding all persons, being Popish Recusants, or so reputed, to depart from London and Westminster, and all other places within 10 miles of the same." But as the French translation was incorrect, and calculated to make an unfavourable impression in France, Newcombe, the publisher, was called before the House of Commons to answer for the inaccuracy; when he laid the blame entirely on the French translator, Miranville, who was taken into custody for what was denominated "a great and malicious abuse;" and a new translation was ordered to be published. Such was the state of feverish excitement at that period, and the slavish submission to foreign influence.

A few other papers of a more general kind appeared about the same time. Some were intended chiefly for Advertisements on different subjects: such as the City Mercury—Advertisements concerning trade, 1675; And the Weekly Advertisement of Books, 1680; published by several booksellers, chiefly for the purpose of announcing new works. One, still more curious, is the Jockey's Intelligencer; or, Weekly Advertisements of Horses and second-hand Coaches, to be bought and sold, 1683. Price 1s. for a horse and coach, for notification, and 6d. for renewing.—Other papers were intended for the lower classes of society, or circulating information on general subjects, in the form of small tracts. These were called Poor Robin's Intelligence; and were revived and continued from time to time, after various intervals. This continued to be long a favourite name, and was often given to a kind of Almanac that was popular in the time of the Spectator.

About 1680, the number of occasional papers increased; and many of them were occupied with news from the continent, which at that time were particularly interesting, from the persecutions to which the French Protestants were exposed, under the perfidious and tyrannical administration of Richelieu. To these, indeed, many of the papers and pamph-

lets refer:—such as the *Impartial Protestant Mercury*—the *Protestant Observator*, or *Democritus Flens*, 1681.—A true and faithful narrative of the late barbarous cruelties and hard usages, exercised by the French against the Protestants at Rochel, after their meeting at the Market-place there, by order of the Intendant of the Province.—Thanks given to the King, on behalf of the French and Dutch Churches in London, for the favours granted by His Majesty, to the Protestant strangers retired into his kingdom. October, 1681.

Towards 1688, the fugitive publications assume a more controversial aspect, and evidently refer to the great political questions connected with the Revolution.

As a pleasing contrast to the slavish feelings and language of this period, we intended to refer again to Milton's celebrated "*Areopagitica*, or *Speech for the Liberty of Unlicensed Printing*," and to quote some passages for the sake of those who have no access to that noble work: but our limits confine us to a few sentences.

Books are not absolutely dead things, but do contain a potency of life in them to be as active as that soul was whose progeny they are; nay, they do preserve as in a vial the purest efficacy and extraction of that living intellect that bred them. I know they are as lively, and as vigorously productive, as those fabulous dragons' teeth; and being sown up and down, may chance to spring up armed men. And yet on the other hand, unless wariness be used, as good almost kill a man as kill a good book: who kills a man kills a reasonable creature, God's image; but he who destroys a good book, kills reason itself, kills the image of God, as it were in the eye. Many a man lives a burden on the earth; but a good book is the precious life-blood of a master-spirit, embalmed and treasured up to a life beyond life. It is true, no age can restore a life, whereof perhaps there is no great loss; and revolutions of ages do not oft recover the loss of a rejected truth, for the want of which whole nations fare the worse. We should be wary, therefore, what persecution we raise against the living labours of public men, how we spill that seasoned life of man, preserved and stored up in books.

Behold now this vast city; a city of refuge, the mansion-house of liberty, encompassed and surrounded with God's protection; the shop of war hath not there more anvils and hammers waking, to fashion out the plates and instruments of armed Justice in defence of beleaguered Truth, than there be pens and heads there, sitting by their studious lamps, musing, searching, revolving new notions and ideas wherewith to present, as with their homage and their fealty, the approaching Reformation: others as fast reading, trying all things, assenting to the force of reason and conviction. What could a man require more from a nation so pliant and so prone to seek after knowledge? What wants there to such a towardly and pregnant soil, but wise and faithful labourers, to make a knowing people, a nation of prophets, of

sages, and of worthies?—Though all the winds of doctrine were let loose to play upon the earth, so Truth be in the field, we do injuriously by licensing and prohibiting to misdoubt her strength. Let her and falsehood grapple; who ever knew truth put to the worse, in a free and open encounter? Her confuting is the best and surest suppressing. She needs no policies, nor stratagems, nor licensings to make her victorious: these are the shifts and defences that Error uses against her power.

THE ALPINE HORN,

SOUNDED IN THE MOUNTAINS OF SWITZERLAND, TO SUMMON THE
INHABITANTS TO PRAYER.

WITH dying splendour now the setting sun
Shot his last rays; Nature was hushed to sleep,
And all was still—Oh what a scene was there!
Each snow-clad peak, that with ambitious head
Sought the high arch of heaven, was painted o'er
With mingled tints of azure and of gold.
The glaciers and impending avalanche,
That threatened ruin and destruction dread
To peaceful villages, now seemed to gaze
With raptured wonder on the solemn scene.
The torrents, foaming down their craggy beds,
Softened to gentler murmurs. Here and there
A little twinkling star, and the bright moon
Appeared amid the boundless waves of heav'n,
Striving to assert her claim as Queen of Night;
In vain—the radiant tho' expiring blaze
Of the descending sun o'erwhelmed them all.
The eagle there calm and majestic sat
Midway in air, upon a jutting rock,
And dove-like, seemed to share the common joy.
But hark! methinks I hear a sound: see, see!
On yonder crag, the highest of the ridge,
A shepherd stands; he blows the mellow horn—
Loud rings the blast, from cliff to cliff it flies.
The chamois listens with instinctive awe,
But trembles not; the stately-nodding pine
Bows its high head, and seems to worship too.
The hamlets hear the blest but simple call,
And on the flowery turf all meekly bend.
Praised be the Lord! through every vale resounds;
Praised be the Lord! re-echoes every hill;
Praised be the Lord! all Nature seems to cry.
The tender parent clasps her rosy babe,
And with a mother's fondness teaches it
To lift its hands in prayer to heaven.
The blushing shepherdess sinks on her knees,
And prays for both her aged parents dear.
And thinks she not on the bold daring youth,
Who climbs the dizzy rock and precipice?
She does; and supplicates his safe return.
The hoary sire, grateful for blessings past,
Beholds his kneeling daughter's lovely form,
And prays that she may close his faded eyes.
The wearied hunter thanks his gracious God
For dangers just escaped, and fondly begs
For every blessing on the maid he loves.
Now all is hushed again—a holy calm succeeds;
The sun has shed his last expiring ray,
And night has spread around her sable veil;
While all, retiring to their peaceful homes,
Soon taste the sweets of undisturbed repose.

H. R.